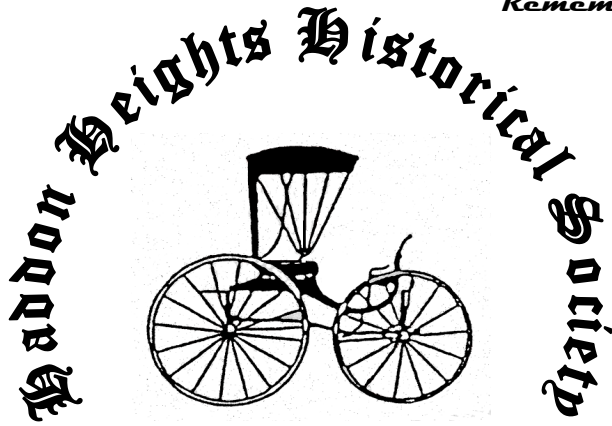


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Volume 50 Number 1

We meet on the 3rd Monday- April, July, & October at 7:00pm – Haddon Heights Library

January 27th Meeting Cancelled

The Library Meeting Room will not be accessible at that time.

Send your email to Info@HHHistorical.org to receive future Bulletins directly to your inbox for free!

Frederick Fries

Immigrant, Businessman, Civic Leader

Marshal Hatfield, past president of this Society, recently purchased a paper corporate embossing seal for The F. Fries Company. Haddon Heights. N.J. He will be donating the embosser and a custom case to the Library for the History Collection.

But who was F. Fries? As you know, Benjamin Lippincott inherited farmland before 1890 that ran from today's Haddonfield border to Bellmawr Avenue. He divided the land into sections which he sold to a few developers. Frederick Fries was one of the developers.



The last name is pronounced freeze, NOT like French Fries. Born on the island of Funen, Denmark, on June 20th, 1861, the 6th of 8 children, he immigrated to the USA when he was 18 years old, arriving April 25, 1880. Within five years, having worked as a cutter, shearer, engineer, fireman, weaver, he had learned enough about the rug weaving business that he became foreman of the Co-operative Rug Company on Creese Street, B Philadelphia. In 1889, he started his own rug company in Malaga, N. J. He successfully continued in the rug making businesses thereafter as owner or partner. Other businesses included the Domestic Laundry of Camden.



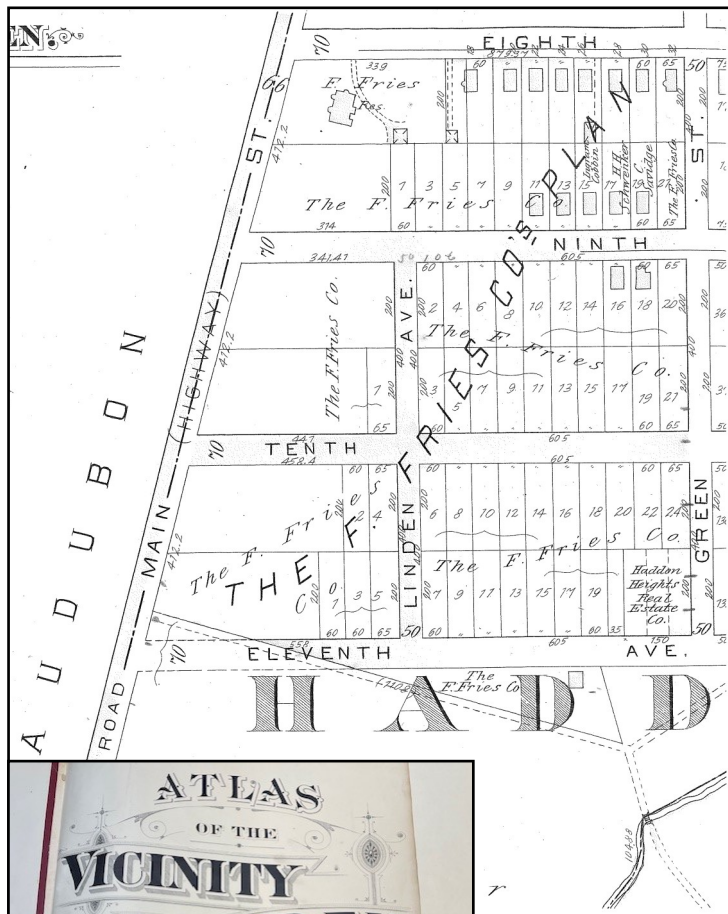
On February 4th, 1884, he married Nellie Cunningham and they had five children; William Frelle, Frederick, George Reynolds, Robert Emmet, and Nellie Mabel. He became a citizen in 1890 and soon was elected to his first public office, School Trustee of Malaga.



The newly developing suburban communities of Camden County did not have much in the way of public utilities. When Fries lived in Mt. Ephraim and when he moved to Orston, now part of Audubon, he started a movement that resulted in each citizen providing his own lamp post and tending his own lamp. Thus, street lighting came to these communities. He was also responsible for the building of a train station at Orston. efore that, trains needed to be flagged down.

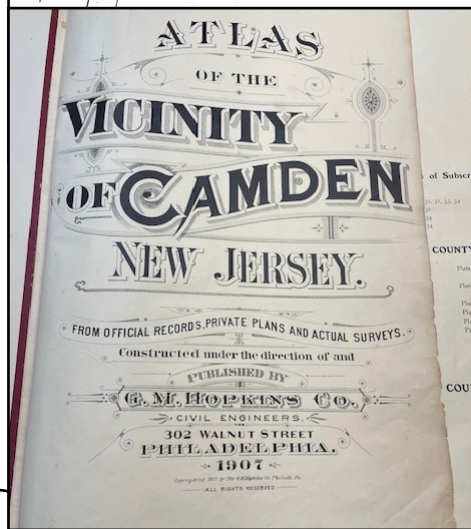


In 1896, The Fries family moved to the White Horse Pike in Haddon Heights. From time to time, Fries invested in land in Haddon Heights, buying about 41 acres from Benjamin Lippincott and 30 acres from John Glover along Kings Highway. With this land, he started the F. Fries Company.



An advertisement in the Camden Post-Telegraph, March 28, 1908, states that, “We point with pride to the nearly one hundred HOMEOWNERS in Haddon Heights who have purchased their home from us. Ask every one of them and they will tell you that the F. Fries Co. does everything and more than they promise. We sell no lots, thus insuring you against the nuisance of having an empty lot, overgrown with weeds, next door to your improved property. We sell you a house or build one, in the choicest location of town, complete with every modern convenience, cement walks, lot graded, lawn grass seeded; in fact, everything ready to occupy without any annoyance to you. We have ready for occupancy new homes ranging in prices from \$3,700 to \$4,500. Also some other properties \$2,800 to \$4,500. Terms will be made to suit purchaser.”

Ever ready to perform a civic duty, Frederick was elected as the second mayor of Haddon Heights. He served for six years without recompense. Of course, street lighting came to Haddon Heights during his tenure. He was a County Freeholder for ten years and a member of the State Tenement House Commission.

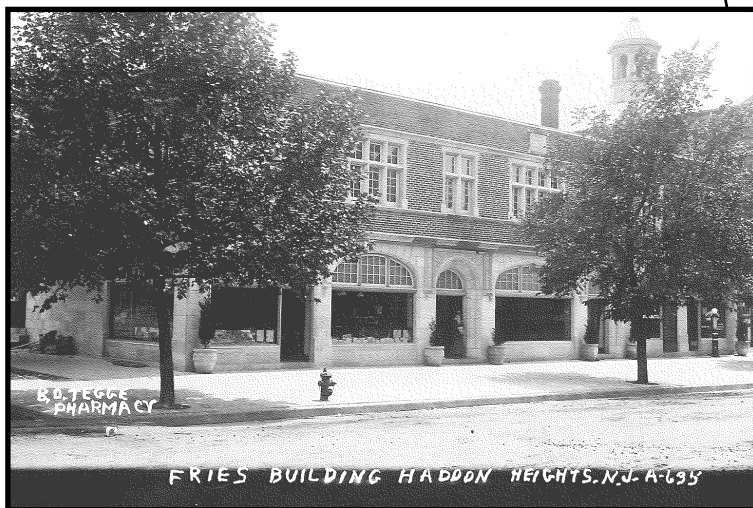


Frederick was a founder, President, and Chairman of the Savings Building and Loan Association, later the Haddon Heights Victory Savings and Loan. As such, he was deeply involved with real estate development and had deep ties with the Camden Trust Company and the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company, the biggest banks in south jersey.

Frederick Fries was extremely proud of his citizenship. The Haddon Heights Library owns a booklet signed by the leading businessmen

and elected officials that reads, "The fellow-townsmen and friends of Frederick Fries present this testimonial to him as an expression of their love and high esteem April the twenty-fifth Nineteen Hundred and Thirty. This was not his birthday. It was the 50th anniversary of his becoming a citizen. A similar ceremony was held marking the 60th anniversary in 1940 and another in 1950. All were attended by leaders of the community.

When you walk pass 600 Station Avenue, a notable Tudor revival building, look up at the name above the center entrance. Fries moved from his very large home at 800 Kings Highway to a more manageable apartment in The Fries Building later in life. He was



living in the nursing home at the corner of 8th and Station Avenue when he died, December 7, 1953. He had been predeceased by his wife and also by a fourteen-year-old son who had died after being struck by a train in Haddon Heights.

His daughter Nellie M. Fries Gohagan lived in Haddon Heights for many years and wrote a published book of poetry, *The Singing Heart*. She also followed in her father's footsteps by building many delightful homes in Cherry Hill in Wilderness Acres off of Springdale Road.

Chris Feese, We Thank You

When the Church of Christ, Scientist was sold, the new owner was given the photographic scrapbook of the building of the church. The owner was generous enough to loan the Society the scrapbook so that it could be reproduced.

Chris Feese, volunteer extraordinaire, agreed to take all of the newly copied photos and create two scrapbooks for the Historical Society. Two years later, we now own our own photographic record of the construction of what is the most significant architecture in Haddon Heights.

We are most grateful for Chris Feese's talent and effort!



2025 Membership Application / Renewal - Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (H): _____ (C): _____ Email: _____

Membership Type: _____ Single-\$10 _____ Household-\$15 Additional tax deductible donation of: \$ _____

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COMING EVENTS

H. H. Historical Society Meetings:

Spring Meeting Monday, April 21, 2025
All meetings begin at 7:00 pm – Haddon Heights Library – lower level

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Please consider renewing your membership. All dues help your Historical Society cover ongoing costs and support our mission. Only “paid-up” members will continue to receive this highly informative and insightful (in the Editor’s opinion) HHHS Newsletter!

Your “Paid Through” year is highlighted on your mailing label. Return the membership form on page 3 to remain a member in good standing.

Please Note: Those members who provide an e-mail address, will also receive an electronic color copy of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.hhhistorical.org.

WE NEED YOU! There are just a few of us who actively work to keep this organization going. YOU can help by volunteering to serve and by helping build our membership. We need YOU!!!!!!

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make History by Making us part of Your Legacy...

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